



NEWS RELEASE

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Jobs Up in Majority of Metro Areas in December

Unemployment Rates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Metropolitan Area	December 2023*	December 2022**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	3.8%	2.9%	0.9
Carbondale-Marion	4.2%	3.5%	0.7
Champaign-Urbana	4.0%	3.1%	0.9
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	3.9%	4.2%	-0.3
Danville	5.4%	4.4%	1.0
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	3.9%	3.6%	0.3
Decatur	5.7%	4.5%	1.2
Elgin	5.1%	4.0%	1.1
Kankakee	5.9%	4.7%	1.2
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.8%	3.7%	1.1
Peoria	4.8%	3.9%	0.9
Rockford	5.9%	4.6%	1.3
Springfield	3.9%	3.4%	0.5
St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.0%	3.2%	0.8
Illinois Statewide	4.2%	4.0%	0.2

* Preliminary | ** Revised

SPRINGFIELD – Over-the-year, total nonfarm jobs increased in eight metropolitan areas, decreased in five and was unchanged in one for the year ending December 2023, according to data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (DES). Over-the-year, the unemployment rate increased in thirteen metropolitan areas and decreased in one.

“We are pleased to see continued positive economic trends across Illinois,” said Deputy Governor Andy Manar. “IDES remains committed to sustaining a viable workforce ecosystem in which jobseekers and employers remain engaged and connected.”

The metro areas that had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Danville MSA (+1.8%, +500) and the Springfield MSA (+1.7%, +1,900). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago Metro were up +0.8% or +31,600. The metro areas with the largest over-the-year percentage decreases in total nonfarm jobs were the Kankakee MSA (-1.6%, -700) and the Decatur MSA (-1.4%, -700). Peoria MSA saw no change in total nonfarm jobs. The industries that saw job growth in a

majority of metro areas included: Education and Health Services (eleven areas); Leisure and Hospitality and Government (ten areas each); Mining and Construction (nine areas); and Other Services (eight areas).

The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate increases were the Rockford MSA (+1.3 points to 5.9%), the Decatur MSA (+1.2 points to 5.7%), and the Kankakee MSA (+1.2 points to 5.9%). The unemployment rate fell in the Chicago Metro (-0.3 point to 3.9%).

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) - December 2023

Metropolitan Area	December 2023*	December 2022**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	97,900	98,100	-200
Carbondale-Marion MSA	59,300	58,500	800
Champaign-Urbana MSA	120,500	120,200	300
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,835,900	3,804,300	31,600
Danville MSA	27,700	27,200	500
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	185,300	184,300	1,000
Decatur MSA	48,200	48,900	-700
Elgin Metro Division	268,300	264,600	3,700
Kankakee MSA	43,000	43,700	-700
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	419,900	421,600	-1,700
Peoria MSA	172,200	172,200	0
Rockford MSA	148,100	149,600	-1,500
Springfield MSA	111,500	109,600	1,900
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	244,400	241,600	2,800
Illinois Statewide	6,181,600	6,125,300	56,300

* Preliminary | ** Revised

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**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

Labor Market Area	Dec 2023	Dec 2022	Over-the-Year Change
Carbondale-Marion MSA	4.2 %	3.5 %	0.7
Jackson County	4.1 %	3.4 %	0.7
Williamson County	4.2 %	3.6 %	0.6
Surrounding Counties			
Alexander County	5.6 %	5.0 %	0.6
Franklin County	5.4 %	4.8 %	0.6
Johnson County	5.5 %	5.1 %	0.4
Massac County	4.5 %	4.2 %	0.3
Perry County	5.0 %	4.3 %	0.7
Pulaski County	7.3 %	6.0 %	1.3
Randolph County	3.9 %	3.2 %	0.7
Union County	5.6 %	4.9 %	0.7
Harrisburg Area			
Gallatin County	5.0 %	4.3 %	0.7
Hamilton County	3.8 %	2.8 %	1.0
Hardin County	4.7 %	4.1 %	0.6
Pope County	3.8 %	3.6 %	0.2
Saline County	5.0 %	4.3 %	0.7
White County	3.6 %	3.3 %	0.3
Olney - Mt. Carmel Area			
Edwards County	5.0 %	3.6 %	1.4
Lawrence County	5.3 %	4.6 %	0.7
Richland County	4.1 %	3.1 %	1.0
Wabash County	3.0 %	2.7 %	0.3
Wayne County	4.4 %	3.3 %	1.1
Other Areas			
LWIA 23	4.2 %	3.4 %	0.8
LWIA 24	3.9 %	3.2 %	0.7
LWIA 25	4.4 %	3.8 %	0.6
LWIA 26	4.6 %	3.9 %	0.7
Southern EDR	4.5 %	3.9 %	0.6

Southern Illinois Highlights

Carbondale – Marion Area

The December 2023 unemployment rate was 4.2 percent. This was a +0.7 percentage point increase from the December 2022 rate of 3.5 percent. Total nonfarm employment increased by +800 jobs in December 2023 compared to December a year ago. Government payrolls increased over-the-year (+200).

Surrounding Counties

Total nonfarm payrolls increased by +400 jobs in December 2023 compared to a year ago.

Employment rose in Leisure and Hospitality (+250), Government (+200), Educational and Health Services (+75), Construction (+25), Financial Activities (+25) and Natural Resources and Mining (+25).

No change in employment was reported in the Information or Manufacturing industries.

Payrolls declined among employers in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-100), Professional and Business Services (-50) and Other Services (-25).

Harrisburg Area

Total nonfarm employment increased by +450 jobs in December 2023 compared to December 2022.

Employment gains were posted in Government (+175), Financial Activities (+100), Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+50), Natural Resources and Mining (+50), Information (+50), Other Services (+25) and Educational and Health Services (+25).

No change was recorded in Leisure and Hospitality payrolls. Employment declined in Construction (-25), Manufacturing (-25) and Professional and Business Services (-25).

Olney – Mt. Carmel Area

Total nonfarm employment increased by +350 jobs in December 2023 compared to December 2022.

Payrolls increased in Government (+150), Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+125), Educational and Health Services (+75), Leisure and Hospitality (+50), Other Services (+50), Natural Resources and Mining (+25), Information (+25) and Professional and Business Services (+25).

Payrolls were unchanged in Construction over-the-year. Payroll employment decreased in the Manufacturing (-100) and Financial Activities (-25) industries.

Note: Monthly 2022 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2023, as required by the U.S. BLS. Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

Disclaimer: The data contained in the metro area employment numbers press releases are not seasonally adjusted, and therefore are subject to seasonal fluctuations due to factors such as changes in weather, harvests, major holidays, and school schedules. Current monthly metro data should be compared to the same month from prior years (January 2023 data compared to January 2022 data) as data for these months have similar seasonal patterns. Comparisons should not be made to data for the immediate previous month or other previous non-matching months, as any changes in the data within these time periods may be the result of seasonal fluctuations and not economic factors.